

Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDL

Columbia/Snake TMDL Workshops
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Lewiston, ID-Sept. 25, 2002
Kennewick, WA-Sept. 26, 2002
Portland, OR-Oct. 1, 2002



Geographic Scope

- **Columbia River from the Canadian border (RM 745.0) to the Pacific Ocean.**
- **Snake River from the confluence with the Salmon River (RM 188) to the confluence with the Columbia River (Columbia RM 324.3).**

TMDLs under this effort

- **Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL**
- **Lower Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**
- **Lake Roosevelt/Mid Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**
- **Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**



Other Related Activities

- **Endangered Species Act**
- **2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion**
 - ❑ **Water Quality Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**
 - ❑ **Appendix B called for development of a Water Quality Plan**



Clean Water Act Requires...

As enacted in 1972, section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires States to:

- Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards – 303(d) list**
- Set priorities for TMDL development**
- Develop a TMDL for each pollutant for each listed water**

EPA to approve or disapprove State submissions, and if disapproved, to act in lieu of State

What is a TMDL?

- μ **The amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.**
- μ **The sum of allowable loads from point and nonpoint sources, considering seasonal variation and a margin of safety.**
- μ **Determines sources of pollutants causing or contributing to impairment.**
- μ **Allocates responsibility for reductions needed to achieve water quality standards.**

What is the technical process?

- **Define the numerical targets for the TMDL.**
- **Characterize existing conditions.**
- **Identify sources and evaluate linkages between sources and temperature/dissolved gas response of the river.**
- **Quantify loading capacity.**
- **Allocate loads.**

State and Tribal Agencies with a CWA role in the Project Area

○ States

- ❑ **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Washington Department of Ecology**

Tribes

- ❑ **Colville Confederated Tribes (EPA promulgated standards)**
- ❑ **Spokane Tribe of Indians (tribal approved standards)**
- ❑ **Other Columbia Basin Tribes - federal trust responsibility**

Roles of Key Players

- **Oregon and Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Lower Columbia - 9/2002**
- **Washington developing dissolved gas TMDLs for Mid-Columbia and Lower Snake - 6/2003**
- **EPA is taking technical lead on temperature TMDL - expected to be completed 6/2003**
- **EPA developing dissolved gas TMDL for portions within tribal waters**
- **EPA in lead to work with tribes**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for temperature on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River to it's confluence with the Columbia River is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature on the Washington, Idaho and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature (cont)

- **The Columbia River RM 545.1 to RM 745.0 from Chief Joseph Dam to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature by the State of Washington.**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River at the Washington border to its confluence with the Columbia River is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas (cont.)

- **The Columbia River from the confluence with the Snake to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas by the State of Washington.**

Consultation and Coordination with Columbia Basin Tribes

- ♦ **July 2001 letter to Tribal Chairs committing to tribal consultation and coordination process**
- ♦ **Grant to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**
 - ♦ **CRITFC September 2001 Meeting**
- ♦ **February 2002 letter to Tribal Chairs from Regional Administrator notifying them of the opportunity to consult**
- ♦ **Contract Support to Upper Columbia Tribes**
- ♦ **Other meetings - Spokane, Umatilla**



Lake Roosevelt TDG TMDL

- ◆ **"Tribal waters" require EPA to develop this effort**
- ◆ **Build upon temperature modeling efforts**
- ◆ **Washington Ecology committed to coordinate with the Tribes**
- ◆ **Spokane and Colville are key - near term discussions to scope out this effort**
- ◆ **Work with Bureau of Reclamation - Grand Coulee**
- ◆ **Coordinate with Transboundary Gas Group - Canadian Waters**

Process with State, Tribes and Others

- ◆ **Monthly Meetings in 2001 and 2002 -Invite states, tribes and others - Good participation**
- ◆ **Technical workgroup - Temperature TMDL**
- ◆ **Meetings with others - PUDs, Pulp and Paper, Irrigation Districts**
- ◆ **Congressional Staff - D.C. and Region**
- ◆ **Action Agencies - Technical Meetings**
- ◆ **NMFS/FWS ESA Coordination/Consultation**



Public Process

- ◆ **Pre-decisional informational meetings to share information as TMDLs are developed**
- ◆ **July 2001 - Spokane and Portland**
- ◆ **October 2001 - Lewiston and Pasco**
- ◆ **March 2002 - Vancouver and Toppenish**
- ◆ **September/October 2002 - Lewiston, Kennewick and Portland**

Temperature TMDL Schedule

- ◆ **September 13 - Draft Preliminary Temperature TMDL**
- ◆ **September 25, 26 and October 1 - Public workshops**
- ◆ **Early November - Draft Temperature TMDL**
- ◆ **November - January 2003 - 90 day comment period/formal public hearings**
- ◆ **February - April 2003 - Respond to comments**
- ◆ **May 2003 - Final TMDL**



EPA Website - Public Access

- ◆ **Extensive compilation of materials**
 - ◆ **Fact Sheets**
 - ◆ **Technical Reports**
 - ◆ **Important Correspondence**
 - ◆ **Public Workshop Summaries**
 - ◆ **Workshop Presentations**
 - ◆ **Draft Preliminary Temperature TMDL**



For more information

- **Region 10 Home Page**
www.epa.gov/r10earth/index.htm
- **Columbia/Snake Rivers TMDL Web Page**
www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm
- **Office of Water TMDL Home Page**
www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html

